

Sola Gratia – Grace Alone

November 13, 2016
Acts 15:1-21

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)
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Sola Gratia – Grace Alone - Acts 16: 30-31

1st Church Council - dealt with salvation by Grace Alone

Issue: Christ alone was not sufficient – Christ+ law, circumcision
Gospel to Gentiles:

- God used persecution of Saul (Act 8:3-4) to cause Philip to preach gospel to Samaritans (8:4-8). Paul converted (9). Peter sent w/ Gospel to Cornelius (10:9-35). Persecution & scattering (11:19-20). Gospel to Syrian Antioch. Then Judaizers came (15:1)

What was the Christ PLUS?

- 15:1,5 – unless circumcised (keep law) can't be saved! Gal 2:4-5, 11; 1:8
- Not pure Gospel: Act 2:21, 38; 10:43; 16:31; Rom 1:16

Why such a big deal?

- Isn't it good to follow God's law? Not if that is a pre-requisite to being saved
- Pharisees taught separation Gal 2:11-14 unless full law kept
- Paul & Barnabus: 'no small dissension!' 15:2, 11

What about the law?

- Law can't save – Rom 3:23; 3:10; James 2:10 : Acts 15:10 we unable to bear
- 1. Law to be mirror & show us what sin is. Rom 7:7; 3:20; 4:15; 5:13; 7:7-11; Gal 3:19-24
- 2. Law to restrain evil – "Civil Use" threat of judgement by authorities. Deut 13:6-11; 19:16-21; Rom 13:3-4
- 3. Law to guide us in good works. Law tells us what pleases God. Believer is free from law as system of salvation because Christ fulfilled law. Eph 2:10; Mt 28:20; Jn 14:15; Rm 6:14; 7:4; 1 Cor 9:20-21; Gal 2:15-19
- Law can't save : Gal 3:10 Only Christ obeyed Rom 10:4; Heb 4:15
- GREAT EXCHANGE OF GOSPEL: 2 Cor 5:21
- Danger of using Law to be accepted: Gal 5:1-4

Council of Jerusalem: 1st Presbytery Acts 15

- God protected His Church Acts 15:28-19 by Spirit guiding: Jn 16:13
- Peter's Lesson: 7 - God brought Gospel to Gentiles
- Refers back to Cornelius (Act 10:43) 15:8
- Peter as strict lawkeeper (Act 10:9-16) but unclean not externals Mt 15:16-20
- Unclean hearts are the problem Jer 17:9; Act 15:8; Eph 2:8-9; Act 15:9
God cleanses unclean hearts by grace, not law!
- Don't add back the law: Acts 15:10-11 live in God's grace (11)

For Thought & Discussion:

- How would you explain the phrase, "Grace Alone"?
- What is our human condition (the condition of our heart) according to Scriptures? Jer 17:9; Rom 3:10
- Can keeping the law change our hearts? What scriptures might you use to defend your position?
- What are the three uses of the law (look @ 1,2,3 under 'What about the law?') How are these uses NOT adding something to the work of Christ?
- How can the law guide us in good works? What impact does that have on your day to day life?
- How does the Council of Jerusalem encourage you and allow us to trust God's protection for His church? What must we depend upon? Jn 16:13

The Solas of the Reformation:

Sola Scriptura Scripture Alone
Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God Alone
Solo Christo. Christ Alone
Sola Gratia. Grace Alone
Sola Fide. Salvation by Faith Alone